



UK Coach Operators Association

Little Owl Farm, Halebourne Lane, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8SL

Email: info@uk-coa.co.uk

Tel: 0333 7333 222

Members Meeting

Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

Present

Anthony Marett	UKCOA Vice Chair (Marett's Chariots)
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Jonathan Batchelor	Golden Tours
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Ian Bishop	Alfa Travel
David Blake	Blakes Coaches
Peter Bradley	Managing Director – UKCOA
Mark Carver	Carvers Coaches
Darren Curd	Wrightsure
Mark Davies	Pats Coaches
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Andrew Halliday	Safeguard Coaches
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Colin Inman	Chandler's Coach Travel
Danny Kenny	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Rob Marriot	Bayliss Executive Travel
Richard Matthews	Princess Coaches
Rachael Noble	Gallagher Insurance
Andy Palmer	A Palmer Associates
Mark Peace	Cheney Coaches
Neil Pegg	City Circle
Marc Preston	SBC Coaches
Steve Price	Gallagher Insurance
Sarah Reilly	Bliss Travel
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches

Val Sheppard-Evans	Longmynd Travel
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Justin Spiller	Arleen Travel
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
Justin Stott	Aircono Ltd
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Robert Whelan	Corbel of London

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Anthony Marett welcomed members to the meeting. **Kevin Wilde** is on a short sabbatical and Anthony will be chairing the members meeting in the meantime.

Apologies were received from:

Stephen Telling	UKCOA President
Kevin Wilde	UKCOA Chair
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Del Haggerty	DH Team Ltd
Andy Repton	Repton's Coaches

2. **Minutes of last meeting 11 October 2022, and any Matters Arising**

Laura Li has been off sick for 3 weeks with Covid so there are no minutes. Any outstanding items will be included with the minutes of this meeting.

Anthony Marett thanked **Wrightsure** for sharing their stand at the Euro Bus Expo and congratulated the winners of the Route One Awards.

3. **UKCOA Sub -Groups**

Decarbonisation, Fuel, PSVAR and Drivers Hours – Peter Bradley

Decarbonisation: work is continuing behind the scenes. The main issue is how to get the necessary infrastructure into the depot and all the challenges that brings. Peter is in touch with Zemo who are helping to drive the conversation with government forward. The new transport minister is **Richard Holden** and the UKCOA will work jointly with the CPT to ensure he understand the different needs of coaches and buses.

Anthony Marett mentioned that the regional governments offer different levels of funding support for businesses. He will investigate the differences and report back.

Fuel: **Anthony Marett** will circulate a monthly fuel report from Portland Fuels, a fuel hedging company. They offer the option to purchase fuel at a set price regardless of the market. It can give certainty over the life of a contract, but obviously the market price can go down as well as up. *(This minute is from the October meeting).*

PSVAR: The UKCOA has been invited to join the DfT's stakeholder group to review the PSV Accessibility Regulations for implementation in 2026. **Stephen Telling** and **Peter Bradley** will attend regular meetings as well as a series of workshops in the first week of December.

Drivers Hours: Peter Bradley and **Stephen Telling** are working on a paper outlining the changes that the UKCOA is asking for. The paper will be circulated to members when ready.

Schools – Steve Spiller

The main focus is on BODS and looking at the impact and complications that has for registration and PSVAR exemption. Still seeking a definitive answer. A leaflet is being put together to send to schools. The group is also looking at contract prices, which are rising. Generic Risk Assessment templates and fair contract clauses are being drafted **Peter Bradley** wrote the letter to schools about payment for the extra Bank Holiday and it will be sent with this week's newsletter.

Driver Academy – Mark Anderson

Andy Palmer (in **Mark Anderson's** absence) reported that potential funding from the DWP has been delayed due to the Queen's death and changes in government and he will follow this up again. New drivers are leaving the industry after a short time but there is no obvious solution. The UKCOA will continue to develop the Driver Academy. **Mark Anderson** is looking into lobbying parliament to make it easier to employ drivers from abroad.

Marketing – Anthony Marett

The group's remit has widened to include looking at the benefits of being a member as a way to attract more members and grow the UKCOA. The group has discussed offering software like the tech companies do and is looking for a company that has software that could be white-labelled for UKCOA members to use to sell to schools, or, for home to work transport, which is a growth area. **David Ashdown** has compiled a list of potential suppliers that might be able to offer group buying discounts.

Bonded Holidays

David Blake is being seconded to the Board to chair this sub group. **Peter Bradley** thanked **Andrew Day** and **Wrightsure** who have given a lot of help with this.

4. New Members and Membership Drive

New members **Safeguard Coaches** and **Grindles** were welcomed to their first meeting. *(This minute is from the October meeting).*

The membership stands at around 80 and the aim is to get to 100 plus industry partners. Having 100 members would put us in stronger position when lobbying government. There are 3 or 4 follow-ups from the Euro Bus Expo. Membership forms will be sent to all members shortly for sharing with colleagues/potential members.

5. Managing Director Roundup

Peter Bradley met with two suppliers of biofuels at the Euro Bus Expo who may be able to supply fuel in smaller quantities and will follow up with them.

Peter Bradley and **Stephen Telling** have been working hard for a number of years on

new set down and pick up arrangements for Changing of the Guard in London. The locations in Buckingham Gate are being removed for security reasons. A viable solution is to set down and pick up at Bomber Command at the top of Piccadilly with the coaches going on to park in Park Lane. The UKCOA is promoting this solution to TfL in conjunction with the RHA and CPT. The parking bays in Park Lane have recently been reinstated albeit in different positions that do not allow for set down and pick up. *(This minute is from the October meeting).*

6. **Meeting and Event Programme for 2023**

Peter Bradley is planning a series of presentations by industry partners and people with government influence. The Senior Traffic Commissioner only attends in person events and will be invited to speak at the AGM. Planning is underway for the AGM, which may start with a meal on the Sunday evening, an overnight stay, with the AGM and a seminar with a wide range of speakers the following day.

Anthony Marett asked if there was any merit in considering some in person members meetings next year. There was some interest depending on the location. The AGM itself is likely to be in the midlands.

7. **Any Other Business**

Mark Carver asked if the UKCOA should be pushing for an auto-pay system for entering Clean Air Zones. It is difficult to manage payments when his vehicles unexpectedly enter a zone, especially for night work when the deadline for paying is unclear.

Ideally there would need to be one system for the whole of the UK. It will be hard to convince the government to implement a nationwide system, but this will be taken to the Board and possibly a new sub-group formed to take this forward. In the meantime, a page can be added to the UKCOA website with links to all the published Clean Air Zone maps with added information from local operators.

Steve Spiller mentioned the bridge on the A4 going into Bath has an 18-tonne weight limit. He advised members to be aware that his 18-tonne coach retrofitted with wheelchair lift was issued a V5 certificate as a 19.5 tonne vehicle. He warned members to be careful as a £1,000 fine is being introduced for contravention.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13 December at 10.30

UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2022

Tuesday 13 December at 10:30 – Members Meeting

UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April – 67th UK Coach Rally, Blackpool

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 May – ITT Hub, Farnborough